setting up of this Board was considered in the Conference of Sugar Ministers of all the sugar producing States held on 6.5.1995. It was decided in that Conference to obtain detailed views of all the Sugar producing states before constitution of the proposed Board. All the State Governments were accordingly requested to furnish their views in this regard to this Ministry. Views of the Government of Maharashtra are awaited.

STATEMENT

Range of State Advised Prices of Sugarcane in Some of The States

(Rs. per Quintal)

State	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
U.P.	50 to 61	66 to 70	70 to 74
Bihar	53.50 to 56.50	66 to 70	71 to 75
Punjab	58 to 62	68 to 72	73 to 77
Haryana	56 to 60	66 to 70	70 to 75
Rajasthan	50 to 54	57 to 66	64 to 67
Karnataka	45 to 65	60 to 70	58 to 72

Backlog of SC/ST posts

602. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the backlog of SC, ST and OBC posts in the Ministry of Home Affairs and its subordinate/attached offices:

(b) steps taken by the Government to fulfil this backlog; and

(c) the time by which the backlog is likely to be fulfilled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c). The backlog of reserved vacancies in the Ministry of Home Affairs and its attached/subordinate offices is 474 for Scheduled Castes and 514 for Scheduled Tribes.

A special Recruitment Drive has been launched for clearing the backlog of vacancies reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. This drive will end on 31.3.1997.

Information relating to the Other Backward Classes is being collected.

[Translation]

Looting of Buses

603. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a U.P. Roadways night service bus plying from Delhi to Vageshwar (district-Almorah, U.P.) was looted on its way during the month of October, 1996 and subsequently the robbers were killed in the police encounter;

(b) whether the night service buses plying from Delhi to various places of Uttar Pradesh have become the victims of robberies during the last one year;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of the steps taken by the Government to stop such incidents and relief provided to the victims; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (e). Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[English]

National Watershed Development Project

604. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL
SHRI DINSHA PATEL :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of funds released by the Central Government under National Watershed Development Project for the rainfed ares during the last five years, State-wise;

(b) whether all the State Governments have utilised the Central assistance to the stisfaction of the Union Government;

(c) if not, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to review the scheme and issued any guidelines in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (c). Statement showing the statewise release and utlisation of funds during the last five years under National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA) is given in the statement enclosed.

The utilisation of funds in some States has not been satisfactory. The main constraints for slow utilisation of funds by the State Governments are delay in receipt of funds by the implementing agencies, and implementation involving a number of line Departments.

(d) and (e). The Government reviews the scheme from time to time through the meetings of National Watershed Development Policy and Implementation Committee (NWDPIC), National Reviews, Regional reviews and State Level Reviews and issues guidelines to the States on the basis of the reports received.